



Roll Back Malaria Vector Control Working Group
6th Annual Meeting
7 to 9 February 2011, Geneva

Recent reductions in the global burden of malaria have been achieved largely through the massive scale up of vector control interventions and maintaining universal coverage of vector control is one of the main tasks of the RBM partnership. Overwhelming support for the role of vector control drew one hundred thirty six participants representing all regions, including national programs, the commercial sector, academia, foundations, NGOs, and multi-lateral and bi-lateral organizations to the 6th annual vector control working group, the largest to date. This diverse partnership has been structured around eight complementary work streams, collaborating over the past year to respond to specific threats and challenges to global malaria vector control efforts:

Insecticide Resistance: Rapidly increasing insecticide resistance threatens to undermine recent gains against malaria in Africa. Work stream partners are expanding monitoring sites, standardizing procedures and reporting, developing a global strategic plan for insecticide resistance and providing more coordinated support as national resistance management strategies are developed and implemented.

Outdoor Malaria Transmission: A more recently formed work stream, has an initial focus on personal protection for mobile populations in the Mekong, where emerging artemisinin resistance poses the other great threat to global malaria control efforts. The work stream brings together the commercial sector, academia, and national programs to inventory resources, and create common protocols for examining efficacy and community acceptability to adapt repellents and other treated materials that could supplement current vector control tools.

Continuous LLIN Distribution Systems: Complementing the *Alliance for Malaria Prevention* work on mass distribution, this has been a very active group identifying and developing “best practices” and guidance for sustaining universal LLIN coverage through the integration of an array of public and private sector strategies.

Durability of LLINs in the Field: Recognizing that LLINs have a variable lifespan both in terms of physical condition, insecticidal effect and perceived usefulness depending on the geographic and cultural context, this group collaborates with WHOPES and GMP to develop guidelines for determination of LLIN durability in the field and recommendations to help extend product lifespan.

Capacity Building for Indoor Residual Spraying: A large and active work stream with five sub-groups, IRS is building links between private sector work-place programs and national IRS roll-out to identify, disseminate and support guidelines, capacity building, systems development (including procurement, monitoring and evaluation) and pesticide management.

Larval Source Management: New to the VCWG, the work stream will work to develop the evidence base, the protocols and skills training to help national programs identify where investments in larval source management could or likely could not contribute to malaria control.

Optimal Choice of Vector Control Methods: This group is coordinating evidence from current field trials to optimize investments in combinations such as LLINs and IRS, and on new product categories such as durable wall linings. In the future they will work on protocols and products for area risk mapping and stratification.

Entomological Monitoring and Integrated Vector Management (IVM): An extension of the WHO IVM Initiative, this work stream will support countries to undertake a Vector Control Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning. With materials produced through the broader WHO IVM partnership, including the IVM Handbook, Core Training Curriculum and Policy Guidance, partners are developing the cadre of field entomologists and vector control specialists, with the supporting health systems, that are essential of all our work.

The size and scope of the VCWG reflects the fact that vector control is the foundation of malaria prevention and elimination. In terms of commodities, vector control represents the majority of the global malaria investment. Yet there are challenges: coverage remains incomplete, effectiveness is limited by outdoor transmission, and sustainability is threatened by insecticide resistance. Transmission ecology is changing in complex ways. National programs need urgent support to develop the capacity to monitor and adapt their programs. The VCWG renewed its commitment, through the larger RBM Partnership, to support national programmes in meeting these challenges.